

## ITALIAN RETREAT CONTINUES, BIG GUNS DESTROYED

"Orderly Evacuation" of Asio and Sugana Valleys Officially Reported.

### ROME NOW EXPECTS GREAT TIBETON DRIVE

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.  
LONDON, May 24.—The withdrawal of the Italians from the Asio and Sugana valleys in the Trentino, in some cases across the frontier to Italian soil, before the Austrian advance continues. The upper part of the Asio valley was abandoned yesterday in order to consolidate the Italian lines in the Arsiero basin to the south. The heavy artillery that could not be moved was destroyed. In the Sugana valley the Italians continued yesterday the withdrawal to their main defense lines which was begun on Monday.

The Italians are holding their lines in the Lagarina valley, immediately south of Rovereto, between Lizzano and Marco, their artillery yesterday checking an attempt of the Austrians to advance toward the latter town. In the Val d'Adige, which runs parallel to the Val Lagarina a short distance to the east, the Italians made a stand which blocked an Austrian attack on the Monte di Mezzo.

The official statement issued by the Italian War Office to-night follows:

In the Lagarina Valley yesterday afternoon an intense bombardment was directed against our front on both sides of the Asio. Our artillery repelled the advance of an enemy column from Lizzano attempting to attack in the direction of Marco. Last evening our troops checked an attack along the Val d'Adige aimed at the Monte di Mezzo.

Between the Terragnolo Valley and the Asio there was the usual bombardment.

We accomplished the orderly evacuation of the upper basin of the Asio, consolidating our Arsiero basin lines and destroying the artillery that could not be removed.

Between the Asio and the Brenta the enemy exerted yesterday strong pressure on our positions east of the Asio Valley.

In the Sugana Valley the withdrawal of our troops toward the main lines of defense, which was commenced on May 22, continued yesterday methodically and in an orderly manner.

In the Carnia zone there was an artillery duel on the upper But.

There is nothing important to report along the remainder of the front.

Heavy aeroplanes shelled Stanzione, in the Carnia zone. There were some victims and some material damage was done.

A slackening in the force of the Austrian offensive on the Italian front is noted in despatches from Rome which attribute it to the necessity of bringing up new troops to replace losses and to strengthen the attacking lines.

The renewal of the offensive, it is expected, will include within its scope a wider front than the recent operations in the Adige-Aasio sector. In this connection once renewed reports of the massing of Austrian troops north of Lake Garda.

Meanwhile, unofficial despatches from Rome state that the Austrian advance has been checked south of Rovereto. The Austrian losses in the fighting in the southern Trentino so far are estimated as the equivalent of two divisions.

Italian heavy artillery bombarding Rovereto has blown up accumulations of ammunition in the town. The Roman correspondent of THE SUN'S telegraphs, causing extensive fires. The bombardment caused serious damage to the Biadina fort and destroyed several Austrian guns of large calibre.

Italian Staff Surprised.

A writer in the *Giornale d'Italia* of Rome says that the Austrian offensive was a surprise to the Italian command and that the taking of Monte Mezzo and other important positions was possible because the Italians were not looking for so heavy an attack. The writer, however, says that any Austrian dream of invading Italy would be absurd because the Italians can put more men in the front than the Austrians can, while a successful offensive would require a preponderance in men and materials.

A correspondent of the *Corriere della Sera* of Milan, writing of the extensive preparations made by the Austrians for the present offensive, says that the Austrians massed 2,000 guns, mostly of large calibre, on the twenty-four mile front attacked.

An official bulletin issued in Rome last night regarding the situation at the Asio, on the Padober plateau, where the Austrians announce the capture of Italian trenches, says that the Italians abandoned fifty yards of trenches in the Asio, but still hold 200 yards of Austrian trenches.

The Austro-Hungarian official report of today says:

South of the Sugana Valley the Austro-Hungarians have occupied the ridge from Saline to Borgo. On the frontier ridge south of the valley the Italians have been driven from Pomper Mountain.

Further south the Italians are defending the heights east of the Val d'Adige and the fortified district Asiago and Arsiero. The armed work of Campolongo is in Austro-Hungarian hands. The Austro-Hungarian troops have approached more closely the Val d'Adige and Padober Valley.

Near Montefalco an Italian attack was repulsed.

Since the beginning of our attack 21,000 Italians have been made prisoners, among them 524 officers. Two hundred and fifty-one cannon, 101 machine guns and 16 bomb throwers have been taken.

The Tension Strategy.

The German effort against Verdun and the Austrian offensive against Italy are described in a semi-official statement issued in Rome as intended to prevent an expected simultaneous attack by the Allies on all fronts. The statement says:

"The Central Empires desire, even at the cost of enormous sacrifices of men and material, to prevent the Allies from taking the initiative and from attacking simultaneously on all fronts.

"Germany and Austria aim to wear out France and Italy, continuing on the continuance of the temporary halt in the Russian operations, and hope that when Russia is ready at last to resume the fight France and Italy will be so worn out as to need a rest. This view is confirmed by Austrian officers, who have been taken prisoners."

All of the Allies, the statement continues, will be able to pass from the present defensive to decisive, simultaneous action in a joint offensive which will bring about the downfall of the Central Empires.

King Victor Emmanuel has addressed the following order of the day to the army and navy:

"Soldiers of land and sea! Responding with enthusiasm to the appeal of the country a year ago, you hastened to fight, in conjunction with our brave allies, our hereditary enemy and assure the realization of our national claims."

"After having surmounted difficulties

## VON BUELOW MAY BECOME NEW AMBASSADOR TO U. S.

Von Bernstorff's Elevation to German Foreign Ministry Rumored in Berlin.

### HINT AT PEACE MISSION

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.  
BERLIN, May 24.—Prince Bernhard von Buelow, former Imperial German Chancellor and the Kaiser's most trusted friend and adviser, is reported to be about to proceed to Washington on a special mission. No official information of the report could be obtained here to-night. This same report, for some time the "rumor" that he is to take a message pertaining to peace to President Wilson. Another theory is that he will become German Ambassador to the United States, to succeed Count Johann Heinrich von Bernstorff.

The correspondent of THE SUN is able to state in connection with these reports that Prince von Buelow, who has been in Berlin have been considering the advisability of making Count von Bernstorff Foreign Minister.

Nothing substantial has emanated from official quarters here that might tend to verify any of these reports, but the fact remains that important changes in the empire's diplomatic service are looked for by the press and public.

These changes, it is conjectured, will be in line with that in Germany's submarine policy marked by her concessions to the United States. The old policy of apparent disregard for American feelings and protests gradually yielded since the recent crisis exercised great weight in deciding the Emperor to acquiesce in the American demand for abandonment of the old methods of submarine warfare.

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## 'TO END FOOD STRIFE IS GERMANY'S NEED'

Deputy Boettger Would Blast "Anglo-American Hopes" by Restoring Confidence.

### MUST CRUSH DISCONTENT

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.  
LONDON, May 24.—"Wanted—a dictator fully qualified for his work and equal to all emergencies. He must be prepared to remove speedily all defects in the food market and to inflict exemplary punishment on all guilty persons. Salary and other emoluments by agreement."

This advertisement is placed by Dr. Hugo Boettger, member of the Reichstag from Duesseidorf, at the head of an article in the *Duesseidorfer General-Anzeiger*, in which he gives an explanation of the necessity for an economic dictator.

"All sections of the nation are sufficiently aware," he says, "that our food supply must on account of the sea blockade and the cessation of imports from Russia become scanty and lead to high prices."

"Our enemies have to undergo war horrors of a totally different kind. Our people therefore are prepared to bear what is unavoidable, but nothing beyond that."

"We are also fully aware that the evils of scarcity are bound to make themselves felt with special acuteness in the large towns and centres of labor and traffic, but the most dangerous feature of the situation is that it is precisely in those places that a political short circuit of disturbances and riots are apt to occur, the first things for which our enemies are longing so much and which would weaken our inner lines."

Hence we must seek with all possible energy the right man to crush the head of the serpent of rising discontent and strife."

This bears out reports brought here by neutral observers about the growing unrest among the masses of the German people.

Having pointed out the various ways in which a strong man could regulate the food supply, Dr. Boettger observes: "Above all, he will attain the moral success of arousing once more in the popular mind the feeling of security and confidence in the State authority and in the social order. Then the British and Anglo-American hopes will be shattered to the ground and the game of the international intrigues will be spoiled."

KAISER IN CONFERENCE.

Discusses the Food Situation With His Ministers.

BERLIN, via London, May 22 (Delayed).—Emperor William lunched today with all the Imperial and Prussian Ministers and the presidents of the Reichstag and Prussian Chambers. Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg also conferred today with the leaders of the various parties in the Reichstag.

It is believed that these conferences were for the purpose of discussing thoroughly the food situation and the measures to be taken by the "food dictator."

SUPPORTS CHANCELLOR.

Hefferich in Sympathy With Bethmann-Hollweg.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.  
LONDON, May 24.—The Bern correspondent of the *Morning Post* telegraphs: "The importance of the appointment of Dr. Karl Hefferich as Secretary of State for the Interior lies in the fact that he now acts as the Imperial Chancellor's deputy. Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg now has a colleague in full sympathy with his policy."

It is known that Dr. Hefferich, as Secretary of State for Finance, supported the Chancellor's views with regard to the employment of submarines and the attitude to be assumed toward President Wilson's notes; that is, he opposed the ruthless policy of Von Tirpitz.

The correspondent concludes: "Although Dr. Hefferich technically has taken a step downward, he has reached a sphere where he can exert great political influence."

In today's Reichstag session Dr. Karl Hefferich, who has just been appointed Secretary of State for the Interior, said: "The relinquishment of my former office is made easier by the knowledge that the administration of the Imperial finances is in good, strong hands and that 90 per cent. of our war expenditure is covered by long term loans, while in England more than one-half and in France three-quarters have been covered by short term credits."

"The adoption of the present proposals for taxation on a wider basis as decided by the Main Committee adds further strong support to the foundation of the Imperial finances."

"By close cooperation and with God's assistance we shall hold out through the war and continue to exist economically in peace time and to gain a free ground for the resumption of peaceable work."

VEGETARIANISM URGED.

German Professor Wants Nation to Go Meatless Two Months.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.  
LONDON, May 24.—Compulsory vegetarianism for two months is the panacea of Prof. Boas for relieving the meat famine in Germany. The scheme was put forward by the Main Committee and was made that for the first time on record Berlin had been without sausage for days.

The *Vorwaerts* expresses doubts whether the hard working population will endure a meatless diet extending into months.

Locomobile

1917

THE new models are now on exhibition. To view them, and know what is back of them, is to understand why the possession of a Locomobile carries with it exclusiveness and distinction.

Sixty-first Street, next to Broadway

## GERMANS WIN CUMIERES; RETAKE DOUAUMONT FORT

Continued from First Page.

### 500 FRENCHMEN TAKEN.

Fighting Continued in Late Afternoon, Says Berlin Report.

BERLIN, via Amsterdam, May 24.—Two important successes in the Verdun fighting are claimed by the German War Office to-day. The Germans, the statement asserts, recaptured almost the whole of the ground at Port Douaumont lost to the French last Monday. The Germans took 500 prisoners and the fighting was still in full swing late this afternoon, the French stubbornly contesting every inch of ground.

The village of Cumieres, on the west bank of the Meuse, due east of Haucourt and Le Mort Homme, was captured by Thuringian troops, who took 300 prisoners, including eight officers. A French attack on the southwestern slope of Le Mort Homme broke down under the Teuton machine gun fire and infantry fusillades, it is announced.

The German statement said: Southwest of Givency strong English forces attacked our new positions several times. Only a few scattered troops gained entrance and they fell in hand to hand fighting. Otherwise all attacks were repulsed. The English suffered very heavy losses.

Small detachments near Haulcourt and Blaisville also were repulsed. Southwest of Nouvron and north of west of Moulin-Sauvage-Toutent and in the district north of Frunay weak French attacks failed.

On the left bank of the Meuse German infantry and machine gun fire repulsed an attempted advance by the French on the southwestern slope of Le Mort Homme.

Thuringian troops captured by storm

the village of Cumieres. More than 300 French prisoners were taken, including 10 officers. The fighting continued in the Douaumont region, suffering very severe losses.

The ground we had lost temporarily was almost completely recaptured, together with more than 500 prisoners. The engaged part of the front continues with heavy bombardments by both sides.

FIGHT ACROSS RIVER.

Heavy Bombardment on Both Sides of the Souchez.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.  
LONDON, May 24.—The following report from British headquarters in France was issued by the official press bureau to-night:

The situation on the Vimy ridge is unchanged. Small parties of our troops passed forward and engaged in hand to hand fighting. To-day there was a heavy bombardment on both sides of the Souchez River by both sides. There was considerable artillery activity near Rocourt, the Hohenzollern redoubt, Wytschaete and St. Eloi.

AIR LOSSES VERY HIGH.

191 German Machines Brought Down in Two Months.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.  
LONDON, May 24.—The correspondent of the *Daily News* at British headquarters in France telegraphs:

In the daily aerial activity the balance of advantage for some time past has been markedly on our side. The enemy's losses have averaged something over three machines daily on the western front and it is known that 191 German machines have been destroyed here in the last two months."

At the very beginning of the war, according to the correspondent, Lord Kitchener was visiting a certain flying ground in England watching men fly and listening to what the officer commanding had to say.

"You ought to learn to fly in regular formation," said the Secretary for War suddenly.

The officer replied that that was impossible because the machines could neither travel far nor stay long in the air.

"You will have to do it all the same," Kitchener said, "before this war is over."

In the opinion of airmen the suggestion was absurd at that time, but it has come true on the part of both British and French airmen. Recent aerial observation work is now carried out in regular battle formation. Aerial warfare is, in fact, going through all the stages which warfare by sea went. The development in three months of aeroplanes is about equivalent to that of a century in the older service.

WOULD RETAIN BELGIUM.

Von Reventlow Finds an Entirely New Reason for Holding Territory.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.  
AMSTERDAM, May 24.—Count Ernst zu Reventlow in the *Deutsche Tageszeitung* continues his campaign against the idea of restoring Belgium. He has discovered a new argument. Here it is:

"It is a well known fact that before the war Belgium used to earn enormous sums from Germany by her transit trade. It is, therefore, intelligible that she should desire to keep this source of income and if possible enlarge it with the help of her friends."

"Here is a question to which the attention of the German public must be drawn. We regard it as one of the most important economic questions of the future, a question that is most intimately connected with Germany's ability to compete in the world's market, that Belgium should cease to be an economic barrier between the Germans and the industrial districts and the ocean."

BRITISH SEIZE DUTCH MAIL.

The Nieuw Amsterdam's 500 Sacks Taken at Kirkwall.

The Holland-America steamship *Nieuw Amsterdam*, yesterday from Rotterdam, Plymouth and Kirkwall, brought 534 passengers, including 197 in the first cabin, but no mail, the British authorities having taken all of it, 500 sacks, at Kirkwall. Among her passengers was Marshall Langhorne, secretary to the American Legation at The Hague, who is here to get married, and

incidentally, see Secretary of State Lansing.

Martinus Van Meel, aviator of Holland, who is going to Java, not, he said, by aeroplane route, although he believes that soon will be possible, will spend several weeks here inspecting aeroplanes for his country.

Albert K. Dawson, moving picture operator, who has been making films of battleships on the eastern war front for the last eighteen months, brought many relics. He said he had been arrested several times and that three times he had been held to await execution as a spy, but managed to get away. Caspar Whitney, who has been in northern France, is here to advocate the nomination of Col. Roosevelt.

## "Caliban"

THE wondrous charm Of Prospero's enchanted isle— A marvelous interplay Of colored lights— Brilliant costumes And a three-fold stage—"Caliban"— To-night, The Stadium— There and back by a

## Fifth Avenue Bus

(Any northbound bus runs direct to the Stadium or transfers to one that does.)

## when seconds count

NEWSPAPERS work in seconds—not days, hours, or even minutes.

Speed is the rule in all departments.

It is especially the case in placing newly printed editions in the hands of readers.

Keen rivalry—the striving to print and deliver the news first has eliminated the horse and cart once so generally used. Something faster, more dependable and less easily tired is essential today.

This is one reason why two of the country's leading newspapers have just purchased a total of 32 Garfords.

The Philadelphia Evening Telegraph ordered a fleet of 28.

The Philadelphia Public Ledger installed 4, to supplement the Garfords used so successfully during the past two years.

Other metropolitan dailies are also finding Garfords eminently suited for the highly important task of distribution.

For Garfords have speed commensurate with the exacting service required by newspapers.

They have the stamina—the unfailing dependability which assures safe, prompt delivery in spite of the severest weather or traffic conditions.

Their great strength—their tremendous surplus of power makes them eminently suited for any work where speed is vital—where seconds are counted instead of hours or minutes.

The unusually wide range of Garford styles and sizes enables us to offer a motor truck to meet in every single respect the most exacting conditions of any delivery or transportation service.

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